

Listing of the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A billiard cue comprising:
a shaft formed of a material including fibers disposed in a binder, the shaft having a wall with an outer surface between a first tip end and a second end, the shaft having a wall thickness of about 0.005 inches to ~~about 0.010~~ 0.050 inches between opposed first and second ends of the bore, means, extending from the first tip end for about 4 to 5 inches toward the second end, for reducing the mass of the first tip end, the shaft material and the mass reducing means defining a stiffness to weight ratio that minimizes cue ball deflection on impact with the cue by allowing transverse deflection of the first tip end of the correlative to a cue ball.

2 (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The billiard cue of claim 2 wherein the fibers are carbon fibers disposed in an epoxy resin binder.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Previously presented) The billiard cue of claim 1 wherein:
the shaft has a tip portion extending from the first tip end to an end spaced from the second end; and
the bore extending from the first tip end only through the tip portion of the shaft, the bore ending at the end of the tip portion.

8. (Original) The billiard cue of claim 1 further comprising:
a lightweight, non-structural material disposed in at least a portion of the bore.

9. (Previously presented) The billiard cue of claim 1 wherein the mass reducing means comprises:
a bore.